THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) In the given socio-cultural environment of the country and keeping in view all concerns, including safety and security of the State, the Guidelines for uplinking of the foreign owned news channels were issued in March, 2003. The Guidelines, *inter alia*, permit foreign equity holding in the applicant company up to 26% of the total paid up capital and require the company to be registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) Foreign media houses are unlikely to acquire management of the Company as the Guidelines require CEO, majority of Directors and News Editor(s) to be Resident Indians.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

Setting up of electronic news gathering (ENG) units in Orissa

4585. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any proposal to set up Electronic News Gathering (ENG) Units at Koraput and Baripada;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to the State for providing visual clippings to Doordarshan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the proposals are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Private players in FM stations

4586. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to permit private players in FM stations;

(b) if so, the number of players awarded the licences during the last three years togetherwith their details and licence fee collected from each ;

(c) whether it is a fact that out of the 108 FM stations in 40 cities that were on offer for privatisation, only 13 stations have been taken up; and